

HOUSE BILL NO. 671

INTRODUCED BY R. HAMILTON

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION FOR THE STATE POET LAUREATE; AMENDING SECTION 2-15-242, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-15-242, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-15-242. State poet laureate. (1) There is a state poet laureate.

(2) Within 30 days prior to the expiration of the state poet laureate's term of appointment or within 30 days after a vacancy in the position occurs, the Montana arts council established in 22-2-101 shall nominate three individuals to be the state poet laureate. The Montana arts council shall provide the list of nominees to the governor who shall:

(a) within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees, appoint the state poet laureate from among the individuals named on the list; and

(b) notify the secretary of state and the Montana arts council of the appointment.

(3) The individual named by the governor as the state poet laureate shall serve for a term of 2 years beginning on the date of appointment by the governor.

(4) The state poet laureate is an honorary position, and the person serving as the state poet laureate may not receive any compensation from the state for serving as the state poet laureate upon being named poet laureate. When acting in the capacity of state poet laureate, the person may receive reimbursement from the state for travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and may receive compensation or travel reimbursement from other entities.

(5) The poet laureate is attached to the Montana arts council for administrative purposes."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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